IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for providing an interactive program guide, comprising:

providing a plurality of transport streams, wherein each transport stream in said plurality comprises at least one elementary stream representing a respective interactive program guide (IPG) page, wherein each IPG page has associated with it a respective guide portion and a common video portion; and

grouping elementary streams associated with related IPG pages within a common transport stream.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

each of said IPG pages has associated with it a first plurality of slices representing said common video portion and a second plurality of slices representing said respective guide portion;

said method further comprising:

encoding only once said slices associated with said common video portion of said IPG pages;

encoding each respective plurality of slices associated with said respective guide portions of said IPG pages; and

associating, for each IPG page, said encoded common video portion slices and respective encoded guide portion slices.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing for each of a predetermined number of IPG pages in a sequence of IPG pages one video frame for time incremented intra-coding and remaining video frames for time-incremented predictive coding.

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6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising: dividing each IPG page representative video frame to be provided into slices.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising: separately encoding slices associated with said common video portion of said IPG page and slices associated with said respective guide portions of said IPG pages.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein each of said encoded guide portions of said IPG pages is adapted to be combined with said encoded common video portion of said IPG pages to form thereby a respective sequence of image frames.

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